

Remarks

This Amendment is provided in response to the Office Action (Paper No. 3) mailed April 10, 2003, which rejected claims 1-19. In response, the Applicant has hereinabove provided amendments to claims and canceled claims. These amendments do not introduce new matter and will not provide an undue burden upon the Examiner.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 and 12-19 Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claim 1

The claims were rejected as being anticipated by Codilian '564. The rejection is based on the thousands of index marks 621, or timing marks, that are written by the servo track writer in Codilian '564. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the index mark of the present invention as claimed in claim 1 is provided on the disc as it is present to the servo track writer. Nevertheless, the Applicant has amended claim 1 in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which is the patentable subject matter of the present invention.

Amended claim 1 recites a method for stacking discs into a disc stack comprising the steps of obtaining each disc with an index mark already present, orienting each disc in relation to the mark in a servo track writer, writing servo information to the discs, removing the discs from the servo track writer, and reorienting the discs in relation to the mark defining a preselected offset in the servo information between the discs in the disc stack.

Contrarily, Codilian '564 discloses placing a disc in the servo track writer and then writing the timing marks:

FIG. 20 also shows the preferred means for angularly positioning the A* and B* spirals bands 610, 611 relative to existing servo wedges 211 (shown with only one A burst and one B burst for simplicity) and relative to one another. The A* and B* spiral bands 610, 611 are preferably positioned using index information that the STW already gets from a special "index track" 620 that is recorded on the bottom side of the bottom disk via an access port in the base of the disk drive. The STW uses a stationary "clock head" to write and then read the index track.
(Codilian '564 col. 14 lines 2-11)

Codilian '564 is silent regarding obtaining, orienting, writing, removing, and then reorienting the discs into the disc stack in relation to the preexisting index mark on the disc. That is, claim 1 as amended more particularly points out that the index mark of the present invention is used by the servo track writer but not written to the disc by the servo track writer. The amendment to claim 1 obviates the present rejection because Codilian '564 does not teach or suggest all the limitations of the present invention as claimed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended claims 2-13 are allowable as dependent claims depending from an allowable independent claim 1 and providing additional limitations thereto. Claims 14-19 are canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection of the claims are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 10-11 Under 35 USC 102(b)

These claims were rejected as being anticipated by Salisbury '703. Independent claim 10 and claim 11 depending therefrom have effectively been canceled by the amendments thereto making them dependent claims from claim 1, thereby obviating the present rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection are respectfully requested.

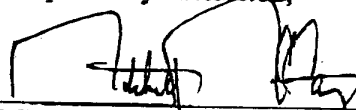
References Not Relied On

The Applicant has reviewed the references cited but not relied on and believes the present invention as claimed in the pending claims is patentably distinct over all the references of record.

Conclusion

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed April 10, 2003. The Amendments contained herein are believed to be proper, do not add new matter, and do not place an undue burden or require additional searching by the Examiner. All rejections and objections are obviated such that the pending claims are in condition to pass to allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant's representative below for any matter that might further facilitate prosecution on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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